THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) Foreign tourists visiting the country may pay their charges for stay and travel in India through the medium of International Credit Cards. The charge slips are sent overseas and the payments are realised through banks in India.

(b) No such information is gathered by the Reserve Bank of India.

(c) No, Sir.

Increase in the Foreign Exchange Earnings

819. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a substantial increase in the foreign exchange earned by the country on various accounts; if so what is the break-up of foreign exchange earned under major heads, including tourism;

(b) what is the effect of various recent fiscal and monetary policies on the development of tourism in the country, including details of achievements already made in this respect or expected in the future; and

(c) what are the changes already made or proposed to be made in various acts like FERA and Foreign Exchange Control to promote tourism in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Instructions issued by the Chairman, C.B.D.T.

820. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the reports published in the Financial Express, Bombay dated the 4th and 28th December, 1993 referring to the instructions issued by the Chairman of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) to the Commissioners of Income Tax Appeals which are alleged to infringe upon the statutory provisions legislated by the Parliament;

(b) whether there is any attempt to diminish the quasi-judicial or semi-judicial authorities of the Appellate Commissioners and what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether directions were issued to the CIT Appeals in the Chief Commissioner's Conference held at Delhi on 24th/25th June, 1993 not to set aside any matter and that the quality of Appellate orders will be reflected in the form of enhancements made/penalties levied/prosecution launched by the appellate authorities; and

(d) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) No such formal instructions have been issued.

821. *[Transferred to 17th March 94.]*

Projects Approved by United Nations Development Programme

822. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has approved two new projects for India

within its Global Environment Facility (GEF), as reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 4th February, 1994;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, indicating the proposed field, location and G.E.F.'s contribution in each project;

(c) whether India has emerged as the largest Non-Development Assistance Committee (DAC) donor; if so, the contribution made so far to the UNDP by India during 1994, as compared to the last year; and

(d) how many projects have been approved so far or are in hand during 1993-94 period and likely to be set up in India by UNDP during 1994-95, please give details?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) Two projects have been approved by the Project Review Committee of UNDP in January, 1994 under GEF. The project documents are being formalised.

(b) The details of the projects are being firmed up.

(c) Yes, Sir. For the year 1994, India has pledged a contribution of Rs. 13.66 crores to UNDP as compared to the contribution of Rs. 12.92 crores made during the last year.

(d) Excluding the 2 GEF Projects, 12 Projects were approved during the year 1993 and only one project has so far been approved during 1994. The total number of projects posed and pending for approval of UNDP during 1993 and 1994 is 36. It is not possible to indicate at this stage the number of projects likely to be set up in India by UNDP during 1994-95.

Electronic Devices using Foreign Banks in India

823. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have permitted to some foreign banks using latest electronic devices in their operations, to operate in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Indian banks are not using the latest electronic devices in their operations;

(c) if so, the reasons for grant of permission to foreign banks; and

(d) how Government propose to protect the interests of Indian banks in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that foreign banks operating in India are not required to obtain permission from than for use of electronic devices, such as, calculators, word processors, ledger posting machines, personal computers, mini computers, main frame computers etc. However, for installation and use of automated teller machines (ATMS), all banks including foreign banks are required to obtain permission from RBI.

(b) Indian banks are currently using a wide array of electronic devices such as calculators, display devices, word processors, advanced ledger posting machines, signature capture and retrieval systems, automated teller machines, personal computers, mini computers, main-frame computer systems etc. Besides, Indian banks are also using latest communication equipments.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) & (b) above.

(d) Indian banks are free to use latest electronic equipments without any restrictions. Recently, Indian Banks Association have concluded an agreement with the employees' unions of banks which allow banks to fully computerise some of their branches. Besides, banks will now be free to use automatic note